GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7851
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2002
PRODUCTION OF SALT
PATY RIPPLE KYNDIAH;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of salt has registered a drastic fall during 2001;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the actual production of salt in the country during each of the last three years, quality-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken for boosting the production of different varieties of salt in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH)

(a) & (b): The production of the common salt registered 9% decrease during the year 2001 as compared to the production in the year 2000. This decrease in the production is mainly on account of devastating earthquake in Gujarat in January,2001 in which many salt works were damaged. As Gujarat contributes about 70% of the salt produced in the country, its effect is reflected in the overall production of the salt in the country.

(c): The salt manufactured in the country conforms to the specifications laid under the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act,1954 and the Rules made thereunder for edible salt. The production of salt in the country during the last three years State-wise is as under:

(Figures in `000 tonnes)

Name of the State/UT	Production		
	1999	2000	2001
Rajasthan	1711.1	1228.5	1746.7
Gujarat	10048.3	11588.4	9647.8
Maharashtra	157.6	154.2	169.4
Karnataka	12.0	14.8	12.1
Tamil Nadu	2159.9	2359.7	2283.6
Andhra Pradesh	278.1	204.8	318.8
Goa	2.0	2.2	2.3
Orissa	29.2	12.2	28.6
West Bengal	13.2	11.2	8.4
Himachal Pradesh	3.0	2.6	2.5
Daman & Diu	38.3	72.7	63.8
Total	14,452.7	15,651.3	14,284.00

(d): Government of Gujarat has provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs.13.03 crore to 1429 salt works affected by the earthquake. The Salt Works damaged in earthquake have since been re-constructed and are producing salt. The Government is taking following steps to boost the production of salt in the country:-

(i) Site inspection is undertaken to judge the suitability of the land for salt manufacture and appropriate recommendations made for allotment of land by the State Governments for the purpose.

(ii) Technical guidance is provided for the construction of salt works on scientific lines.

(iii) Setting up of Salt Refineries in the salt producing areas is encouraged to meet the increasing demand of quality salt for edible, industrial and export purposes which help in boosting up the production of common salt.

(iv) Financial assistance in the form of ex-gratia and loan is provided to the salt works which suffer damages due to natural calamities like floods/cyclones etc. to enable them to recommence their production. Financial assistance is also extended for undertaking development and labour welfare schemes in the salt works.

(v) Departmental salt land suitable for salt manufacture is leased out to private parties for salt manufacture.

(vi) The Government vide Notification No.GSR 639(E) dated 4.9.2001, has replaced consignment-wise permit system for removal of salt from salt factories with the Self Removal Procedure (SRP)which will minimize hassles and thereby help in the increase of salt production.

(b): Government is taking the following steps to boost the production of salt in the country including the coastal areas.

(i) Site inspection is undertaken to judge the suitability of the land for salt manufacture and appropriate recommendations made for allotment of land by the State Governments for the purpose.

(ii) Technical guidance is provided for the construction of salt works on scientific lines.

(iii) Setting up of Salt Refineries in the salt producing areas is encouraged to meet the increasing demand of quality salt for edible, industrial and export purposes which help in boosting up the production of common salt.

(iv) Financial assistance in the form of ex-gratia and loan is provided to the salt works which suffer damages due to natural calamities like floods/cyclones etc. to enable them to recommence their production. Financial assistance is also extended for undertaking development and labour welfare schemes in the salt works.

(v) Departmental salt land suitable for salt manufacture is leased out to private parties for salt manufacture.

The Government vide Notification No.GSR 639(E) dated 4.9.2001, has replaced consignment-wise permit system for removal of salt from salt factories with the Self Removal Procedure (SRP)which will minimize hassles and thereby help in the increase of salt production.